GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1249
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
FOOD STAMP SCHEME
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the innovative Food Stamp Scheme announced by the Government was rejected by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the reasons for rejection of the same by the State Governments;

(c) whether the scheme is being reconsidered;

(d) if so, whether any modifications have been made therein; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): There was a proposal in the Union Budget 2004-2005 to introduce Food Stamps under the Targeted Public Distribution System for the poor on a Pilot basis in two or three contiguous districts in a selected State. The proposal was examined in detail taking into account its pros and cons and was also discussed in the conference of State Food Secretaries held on 17.09.2004 and thereafter in the Conference of State Food Minister`s held on 28.10.04. It was not found acceptable because of various implementation related problems, like counterfeiting and loss of stamps likely to be faced in the introduction of the scheme.